

San Francisco bay. The Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System assisted in the spill tracking as well as using HF Radar systems to provide real-time information on ocean currents to the response teams. They also provided information to and continue to collaborate with the NOAA Office of Response and Restoration, NOAA HAZMAT, NOAA Sanctuaries, and the Oil Spill Prevention and Response program.

These systems are at the forefront of the science of understanding harmful algal blooms, which affect human health and can cause fish kills. Ocean observing systems aid in the study of waterborne diseases and can provide vital information for navigation of ships and small boats. They also have national security implications. This set of Coordinated Regional Ocean Observing Systems will improve coastal monitoring and assist the Coast Guard in their mission to secure our waters and to provide search and rescue for those endangered at sea.

These Ocean Observing Systems are the foundation we need to apply ecosystem-based management of our oceans. This type of management and even this very system of National Integrated Ocean and Coastal Observing Systems is recommended by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, which we in Congress created. The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, created to continue to advise Congress on the Ocean Commission's suggestions, lists this as one of their chief priorities.

I cannot emphasize enough the need to show our ocean stewardship now, so we can turn the tide on the dire consequences facing our oceans and Great Lakes. The oceans and the Great Lakes belong to all the people of the United States and it is our duty to ensure that we provide the coordination and the funding necessary to protect these precious resources. This is why I support H.R. 2342 which will realign and coordinate the existing Ocean Observing Systems.

Madam Speaker, the effects of climate change on the ocean are just beginning to be understood, while the ocean's impact on the growing coastal population increases daily. We need the Ocean Observing Systems in order to understand and respond to the challenges we are facing. I strongly support H.R. 2342 and urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LEE TILLMAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend, Lee Tillman, who passed away on December 15, 2007.

Lee Tillman moved to Boulder City, NV, at the age of 18, in 1931, and worked as a ball mill operator for the Hoover Dam during its construction. Mr. Tillman also worked as a truck driver and an electrician during the construction of the Hoover Dam. He and his late wife, Norma, settled in Boulder City in 1939, where they raised their family and subsequently retired. He was the last known local Hoover Dam construction worker to reside in the area at the time of his death. He was 94 years old.

Lee's friends and family considered him to be a man of integrity, who enjoyed recounting stories about his life and his many experiences that he encountered as a resident of southern Nevada. He was revered as a walking historian because of his ability to recount significant facts and details about the construction of Hoover Dam. He told his accounts as a dam worker for countless documentaries. He enjoyed sharing those experiences with his friends and family alike. I also had the distinct pleasure of serving on the Boulder City Council with Lee's son, Tim, and I greatly appreciated the wealth of knowledge that Lee willingly shared.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of my friend Lee Tillman for his integral work on the Hoover Dam, and his years of community service throughout the Boulder City and the southern Nevada community. Mr. Tillman was a historical force throughout the community and he will be profoundly missed.

VICTIM'S RIGHTS AWARDS, LAURIE DISHMAN UNSUNG HERO AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I am honored to announce that my constituent, Laurie Dishman has been selected by the Victim's Rights Caucus to receive the Unsung Hero Award.

Laurie is a remarkable young woman, who found the strength and courage to fight on behalf of others after she was a victim of a violent crime on a cruise ship. Laurie shared her story with me in a letter two years ago.

As a passenger on board a ship operated by Royal Caribbean, Laurie was raped by a crew member. The story of her ordeal on the ship was shocking and the response by the cruise industry was even more appalling.

Laurie was brave enough to report the incident to the crew authorities, even though they treated her poorly and with little sensitivity. She also reported the crime to the FBI. Unfortunately, the U.S. Attorney's office declined the case or prosecution just four days later.

I have since learned that there have been no convictions for rape cases on cruise lines in four decades. This statistic takes on a new meaning through the lens of Laurie's experience.

Laurie has devoted herself to a public awareness campaign to ensure that the cruise industry is held accountable for their lax security onboard cruise ships.

She has done television shows including The Montel Williams Show, the Morning Show, Inside Edition, and numerous others. She also has done radio interviews for the BBC and other international news organizations to send out her message. As the focus of numerous expose pieces about safety concerns on cruise ships, Laurie was profiled for stories in the Los Angeles Times and the San Francisco Chronicle.

She was also brave enough to testify at a Transportation and Infrastructure, Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee hearing on Crimes on Cruise Ships. At the

hearing she spoke of her experience and also ways to improve prevention methods, including: peep holes and security latches on state-room doors; instituting sensitivity training for crew members; and ensuring more CCTV cameras in hallways.

After the hearing, I introduced the Protect Americans from Crimes on Cruise Ships Resolution on September 17, 2007, with Reps. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS and CAROLYN MALONEY. The resolution now has over thirty cosponsors.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee held a follow-up hearing on September 19, 2007. We heard from other victims who were raped or assaulted on cruise ships. Laurie attended the full-day hearing and provided support for the women who testified and their families. Since then she has continued to attend meetings with the cruise industry, provide interviews and insight to our office on the progress, or lack thereof, of the cruise industry safety standards.

On April 8, 2008 Laurie testified in front of the California State Senate regarding a bill to require Ocean Rangers on cruise ships. "These Ocean Rangers will help to make sure that there are trained personnel who can respond to a reported crime, and that there is an advocate for a crime victim who is not employed by the cruise lines."

I am also working on introducing it bicameral, comprehensive cruise safety reform bill that is informed by two years of research and two Congressional hearings, but at its heart, addresses the concerns brought to our office two years ago by Ms. Dishman.

Laurie embodies the spirit of an unsung hero. She does all of this without acclaim, but because she feels compelled. Laurie has helped lead a campaign of awareness about safety concerns on cruise ships. We all know that crimes can only be prevented when we are aware of the chance for them to occur.

Laurie has taken leadership and shown strong determination throughout this terrible personal experience. I have been very proud to be by her side in this effort, to ensure safety on cruise ships by informing the public of their risks.

Because of her visibility and strength, other victims have been able to tell their stories. As a result, we have been able to garner public awareness and support for our efforts towards oversight and better public policy.

I applaud Laurie for her heroic work during these last two years. I nominated her for the Victim's Rights Caucus Unsung Hero Award. It is an honor to recognize her today for her important contributions to ensuring the safety of the over 10 million women and families across the country that cruise each year.

A TRIBUTE TO CANTOR AVIVA ROSENBLUM

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of Cantor Aviva Rosenbloom of Temple Israel of Hollywood. Cantor Aviva will be retiring this spring after 32 remarkable years of service to the Temple community. She will be honored at